Linking exports with generation of jobs

15. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had evolved a policy of linking increasing exports with generation of jobs opportunities;

(b) if so, the main features and *modus operandi* thereof; and

(c) the estimated number of persons employed in connection with various operations related to exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The objective of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 has been *inter alia* to act as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation. This is proposed to be achieved by identifying and nurturing special focus areas which would generate additional employment opportunities, particularly in semi urban and rural areas.

(c) A recent study "Towards an Employment Oriented Export Strategy: Some Preliminary Explorations" carried out by Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (RIS) commissioned by the Department of Commerce, found that in 2004-05 around 16 Million employment was estimated to have been generated by the export sector, of which 9 Million was direct employment and 7 Million wad indirect employment through backward linkages and related sectors. The total incremental direct employment during the year was 1.48 Million.

Import of edible oil

†16. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:-
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing huge quantity of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details of the import made during each of the last three years and there-after and the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.